

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5869
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
DEPLETING WATER LEVEL
RAMESH CHAND TOMAR;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Depleting water level may leave Delhi dry" appearing in the Statesman dated April 11, 2000.
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government have seen the new-item captioned "Depleting water level may leave Delhi dry" appearing in a section of press. The news-item refers to the depletion of ground water levels and its contamination as a result of seepage of industrial and domestic wastes inside the ground.

(b)&(c) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown that ground water levels have declined by 4 to 10 metres in Mehrauli Block, 4 to 8 metres in City Block, 4 to 7 metres in Najafgarh Block and 4 to 5 metres in Kanjhawala and Alipur Blocks of NCT of Delhi during the last ten years

(d) Water being a State subject, action to augment water supplies and recycling of waste water is to be taken by the concerned State Government. The steps taken by the Union government to check the declining trend in ground water includes:-

- i) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has been holding periodical meetings to, inter- alia, advise the State Governments to take suitable measures to check over-exploitation in view of decline in the level of ground water and to assist the Authority in discharging its functions. It has initiated the process of registration of ground water extraction structures in Delhi to make an assessment of withdrawals vis-à-vis availability of ground water. It has also taken various measures for creating mass awareness on the subject.
- ii) The Central Ground Water Board has prepared a report titled "Development and Augmentation of Ground Water Resources in National Capital Territory of Delhi". A copy of this report has been made available to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for taking follow-up action.
- iii) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on studies on recharge of ground water in some 'Over-exploited' areas of various States including NCT of Delhi in the country. In Delhi, the recharge studies were carried out in Jawaharlal Nehru University and I. I. T., Delhi.
- iv) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to enable them to formulate area specific recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water level.
- v) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development."

Steps taken by the Government to control ground water pollution in NCT of Delhi include – monitoring of ground water quality, use of mobile chemical laboratory for analysis of ground water samples, notification of Nazafgarh and Mehrauli blocks in NCT of Delhi to regulate extraction of ground water, registration of ground water extraction structures, taking up rain water harvesting pilot projects and organising mass awareness programmes.